

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY
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SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES PICKED UP BY LIBERIAN VESSELS

REF: A. TOKYO 13222, B. MONROVIA 5192, C. STATE 161499

1. IN RESPONSE QUESTIONS RAISED REF B, DEPT HAS FIRST
SEPARATELY REPEATED TO MONROVIA REF C. THIS DESCRIBES
ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN WHEN AMERICAN-FLAG OR AMERICAN-OWNED
VESSELS PICK UP INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES AND ARE REQUIRED
TO GIVE GUARANTEES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS IN PORTS OF CALL FOR
THEM TO ALLOW REFUGEES TO DISEMBARK.

2. THIS INSTRUCTION, HOWEVER, DOES NOT APPLY TO REFUGEES
PICKED UP BY VESSELS WHICH ARE NEITHER U.S.-REGISTERED NOR
U.S.-OWNED. FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, USG WELCOMES
ACTIONS BY SHIPS OF ALL NATIONS TO RESCUE SMALL CRAFT IN
DISTRESS ACCORDING TO RECOGNIZED TENETS OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW AND PRACTICE. IT IS NOT UP TO USG TO INFORM OTHER
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GOVERNMENTS OR VESSELS WHAT ACTIONS TO TAKE TO DISEMBARK
SUCH REFUGEES, HOWEVER.

3. U.S. POSTS AROUND SOUTH CHINA SEA ALREADY HAVE
INSTRUCTIONS ON REGULAR PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING REFUGEES
OTHER THAN THOSE WHOM USG HAS TO GUARANTEE, AS OUTLINED

REF C. IF REFUGEES ARE ASSISTED BY SHIPS OTHER THAN U.S. OWNED, U.S. IS UNABLE TO PROVIDE GUARANTEES OF RESETTLEMENT PRIOR TO THEIR BEING INTERVIEWED AND JUDGED ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. PAROLE BY CONSULAR/REFUGEE OFFICERS AND INS OFFICERS. MOREOVER, GIVEN LARGE NUMBER OF BOAT REFUGEES ALREADY IN FIRST ASYLUM (20,000 NOW, AND MORE ARRIVING AT CURRENT RATE OF 5,000 A MONTH), U.S. PAROLE IS EXTENDED FIRST TO THOSE WITH IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN U.S. (CATEGORY I) THEN TO FORMER USG EMPLOYEES (CAT. II), AND THEREAFTER TO THOSE ASSOCIATED IN HOMELAND WITH U.S. SUPPORTED PROGRAMS AND POLICIES (CAT. III). FEW OTHERS (CAT. IV) CAN BE FITTED INTO PROGRAM WHICH IS LIMITED TO 950 BOAT REFUGEES EACH MONTH. IF REFUGEES ASSISTED BY NON U.S.-OWNED SHIPS ARE DISEMBARKED AT FIRST ASYLUM COUNTRY, REFUGEES IN CATS I AND II, WHETHER OR NOT THEIR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT HAS BEEN GUARANTEED BY ANOTHER COUNTRY, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. PROGRAM WHEN THEIR TURN IS REACHED, WHICH MAY BE SOME MONTHS AFTER ARRIVAL IN FIRST ASYLUM. CATS III AND IV REFUGEES, IF THEY ARE PERMITTED ASHORE IN FIRST ASYLUM WITHOUT A SPECIFIC RESETTLEMENT GUARANTEE BY COUNTRY OF OWNERSHIP OR REGISTRATION OF SHIP WHICH ASSISTED THEM, WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED FOR U.S. PROGRAM AS SPACE PERMITS; BUT IF REFUGEES IN CATS III AND IV ARE GUARANTEED PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT BY ANY COUNTRY BEFORE THEY ARE PERMITTED ASHORE IN FIRST ASYLUM, THEN THE U.S. WILL NOT CONSIDER

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THEM FOR U.S. PAROLE SINCE THEY HAVE OFFER OF RESETTLEMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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